

## CONVEYING TO JACK HENRY POST, NO. 1, AMERICAN LEGION, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, THE BUILDING KNOWN AS THE TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH BUILDING

DECEMBER 8 (legislative day, DECEMBER 7), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys,  
submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 1417]

The Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1417) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to donate and convey on behalf of the United States, to Jack Henry Post, No. 1, of the American Legion, Anchorage, Alaska, the wood-frame building known as the Telephone and Telegraph Building, located on lots 7 and 8 in block 17, Anchorage townsite, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and with the recommendation that it do pass.

This bill was suggested and recommended by the Secretary of the Interior to the Vice President of the United States under date of September 22, 1943, and his letter of transmittal is hereinbelow set forth in full and made a part of this report.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, D. C., September 22, 1943.

Hon. HENRY A. WALLACE,  
*President of the Senate*

MY DEAR MR. VICE PRESIDENT: I transmit herewith a proposed bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to donate and convey, on behalf of the United States, to Jack Henry Post, No. 1, of the American Legion, Anchorage, Alaska, the wood-frame building known as the Telephone and Telegraph Building, located on lots 7 and 8 in block 17, Anchorage townsite.

The building proposed to be donated is one story in height and measures 36 by 46 feet. It was built by The Alaska Railroad in 1916 at a cost of \$3,826.43 and was used by The Alaska Railroad and by the city of Anchorage as a city office and telephone and telegraph exchange until September 30, 1937, at which time the city and The Alaska Railroad discontinued the use of the building and removed all equipment.

Beginning in October 1937 the Civilian Conservation Corps occupied the building, rent free, as living quarters with the understanding that it would vacate if the site should be required for the construction of a United States post office and courthouse. When, in December 1938, the site was required for that purpose, the Civilian Conservation Corps requested permission to move the building to nearby land of the Jack Henry Post, No. 1, of the American Legion, which it had rented for a nominal sum. This permission was granted and the building was moved to the land of the Jack Henry Post where the post had provided, without cost to the United States, a concrete basement foundation and plumbing fixtures to facilitate the use of the building.

On August 25, 1942, the Civilian Conservation Corps unit moved out of the building to its camp on Palmer Highway. In the meantime, the Jack Henry Post had permitted the demolition of its building on other land so that the land might be used (at a rental of \$1 per year) by the United Service Organizations for the erection of a building.

Accordingly, the manager of the Alaska Railroad leased the building to the Jack Henry Post, No. 1, for 5 years, beginning September 1, 1942, at a monthly rental of \$2.50. The post has made improvements to the building which it uses as a meeting and club room for itself and its women's auxiliary, and has also made meeting space available to the Boy Scouts without charge. No commercial enterprise is carried on within the building.

In view of the generosity of the Jack Henry Post, No. 1, to the United States, the questionable salvage value of the building, and the small rental income therefrom, I recommend that the proposed bill be enacted.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised me that there would be no objection to the submission of the proposed legislation to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD L. ICKES,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

